

1 1. (currently amended) A method of aggregating a plurality of entries in a table in a database
2 management system into an aggregated entry in the table or another table in the database
3 management system, the method comprising the steps of:

4 making the aggregated entry, the aggregated entry representing the plurality of entries
5 and including a first field whose value is a metric value computed from a set of individual
6 values ~~a representation of a set of a field in the plurality of entries and a second field whose~~
7 value is a representation of the individual values of individual members, the individual members
8 ~~being derived from values contained in entries belonging to the plurality of the entries, the~~
9 ~~representation specifying the individual members of the set.~~

1 2. (original) The method set forth in claim 1 further comprising the step of:

2 deleting the plurality of entries represented by the aggregated entry.

1 3. (currently amended) The method set forth in claim 1 wherein:

2 the ~~representation of the set~~second field's value has a size which varies with the number
3 of the individual ~~members~~values~~specified in the representation.~~

1 4. (currently amended) The method set forth in claim 3 wherein:

2 The ~~representation of the set~~second field's value is a character string, the
3 character string comprising a sequence of characters for each individual member of the set, and
4 separator characters separating each sequence of characters.

1 5. (currently amended) The method set forth in claim 1 wherein:

2 the ~~representation of the set~~second field's value has a size which is constant
3 regardless of the number of the individual members in the set.

1 6. (currently amended) The method set forth in claim 5 wherein:

2 the ~~representation of the set~~second field's value comprises a string of elements, the string
3 of elements ~~comprising~~having an element corresponding to each potential ~~member of the~~value
4 of the individual values that belong to the set, the presence of a particular individual ~~member~~
5 value in the set being indicated by a first value of the corresponding element and the absence of
6 the particular individual ~~member~~value from the set being indicated by a second value of the
7 corresponding element.

1 7. (currently amended) The method set forth in claim 1 wherein:

2 | ~~in deriving the individual members of the set, the~~ individual values from which the
3 | ~~individual members of the set are derived~~ are time values.

1 8. (currently amended) The method set forth in claim 1 wherein:

2 | ~~in deriving the individual members of the set, the~~ individual values from which the
3 | ~~individual members of the set are derived~~ are location values.

1 9. (cancelled)

2 10. (cancelled)

3 11. (cancelled)

4 12. (cancelled)

5 13. (cancelled)

6 14. (cancelled)

7 15. (cancelled)

8 16. (cancelled)

9 17. (cancelled)

10 18. (cancelled)

11 19. (cancelled)

12 20. (cancelled)

13 21. (cancelled)

14 22. (cancelled)

15 23. (cancelled)

16 24. (cancelled)

1 25. (currently amended) A data storage device, characterized in that:

2 the data storage device contains code which when executed by a processor performs
3 aggregation of a plurality of entries in a table in a database management system into an
4 aggregated entry in the table or another table in the database management system, the code
5 comprising instructions for:

6 making the aggregated entry, the aggregated entry representing the plurality of entries
7 and including a first field whose value is a metric value computed from a set of individual
8 values of a field in the plurality of entries and a second field whose value is a representation of
9 the individual values. ~~field whose value is a representation of a set of individual members, the~~

10 | ~~individual members being derived from values contained in entries belonging to the plurality of~~
11 | ~~the entries, the representation specifying the individual members of the set.~~

1 26. (previously presented) The data storage device set forth in claim 25 further characterized in
2 | that: the code further comprises:
3 instructions for deleting the plurality of entries represented by the aggregated entry.

1 27. (currently amended) The data storage device set forth in claim 25 further characterized in
2 that:
3 | the ~~representation of the set~~second field's value has a size which varies with the number
4 of the individual ~~members specified in the representation~~values.

1 28. (currently amended) The data storage device set forth in claim 27 further characterized in
2 that:
3 | The ~~representation of the set comprises~~second field's value is a character string, the
4 character string comprising a sequence of characters for each individual ~~member of the set~~value,
5 and separator characters separating each sequence of characters.

1 29. (currently amended) The data storage device set forth in claim 25 further characterized in
2 that:
3 | the ~~representation of the set~~second field's value has a size which is constant regardless of
4 the number of the individual ~~members in the set~~values.

1 30. (currently amended) The data storage device set forth in claim 29 further characterized in
2 that:
3 | the ~~representation of the set~~second field's value comprises a string of elements, the string
4 of elements ~~comprising~~having an element corresponding to each potential ~~member of the~~
5 set value of the individual values that belong to the set, the presence of a particular individual
6 ~~member in the set~~value being indicated by a first value of the corresponding element and the
7 absence of the particular individual ~~member from the set~~value being indicated by a second value
8 of the corresponding element.

1 31. (currently amended) The data storage device set forth in claim 25 further characterized in
2 that:

3 | ~~in deriving the individual members of the set, the individual values from which the~~
4 | ~~individual members of the set are derived~~ are time values.

1 32. (currently amended) The data storage device set forth in claim 25 further characterized in
2 that:

3 | ~~in deriving the individual members of the set, the individual values from which the~~
4 | ~~individual members of the set are derived~~ are location values.

- 1 33. (cancelled)
- 2 34. (cancelled)
- 3 35. (cancelled)
- 4 36. (cancelled)
- 5 37. (cancelled)
- 6 38. (cancelled)
- 7 39. (cancelled)
- 8 40. (cancelled)
- 9 41. (cancelled)
- 10 42. (cancelled)
- 11 43. (cancelled)
- 12 44. (cancelled)
- 13 45. (cancelled)
- 14 46. (cancelled)
- 15 47. (cancelled)
- 16 48. (cancelled)

- 1 49. (new) The method of aggregating a plurality of entries set forth in claim 1
2 wherein:
3 the entries belonging to the plurality indicate occurrences of an event in the
4 database management system, the occurrences being recorded by a management
5 service in the database management system.
- 1 50. (new) The method of aggregating a plurality of entries set forth in claim 49 further
2 comprising the step of:
3 deleting the plurality of entries represented by the aggregated entry.
- 1 51. (new) The method of aggregating a plurality of entries set forth in claim 50
2 wherein:
3 the individual values indicate times of occurrence of the event of interest.
- 1 52. (new) The method of aggregating a plurality of entries set forth in claim 50
2 wherein:
3 the individual values indicate places of occurrence of the event of interest.
- 1 53. (new) The data storage device set forth in claim 25 wherein:
2 the entries belonging to the plurality indicate occurrences of an event in the
3 database management system, the occurrences being recorded by a management
4 service in the database management system.
- 1 54. (new) The data storage device set forth in claim 53 wherein the code further
2 comprises:
3 instructions for deleting the plurality of entries represented by the aggregated
4 entry.
- 1 55. (new) The data storage device set forth in claim 54 wherein:
2 the individual values indicate times of occurrence of the event of interest.
- 1 56. (new) The data storage device set forth in claim 54 wherein:
2 the individual values indicate places of occurrence of the event of interest.